



Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture
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INTENDED MINNESOTA CORN ACREAGE DOWN 10 PERCENT FROM 2007

RELEASED
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(NOTE: The acreage that farmers actually plant in Minnesota and the U.S. may change from those published in this report due to many factors, including availability of credit, commodity prices, changing weather conditions, and the availability of inputs at the time producers must make final planting decisions.)

IN THIS ISSUE:

PLANTING INTENTIONS

CORN growers in Minnesota intend to plant an estimated 7.6 million acres for all purposes, down 10 percent from last year's record high 8.4 million acres.

SOYBEAN growers intend to plant an estimated 7.1 million acres, up 14 percent from the planted acreage in 2007. The record high was set in 2003, with 7.5 million acres planted.

HOG AND PIG INVENTORIES

SPRING WHEAT planting intentions are estimated at 1.9 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. The record high was 3.88 million acres planted in 1976.

ANALYSIS OF GRAIN STOCKS AND PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

OAT planting intentions, at 230,000 acres, are down 15 percent from last year.

BARLEY planting intentions fell 8 percent from last year as farmers intend to plant 120,000 acres.

SUGARBEET planting intentions, of 432,000 acres, are down 54,000 acres from last year.

GRAIN STOCKS

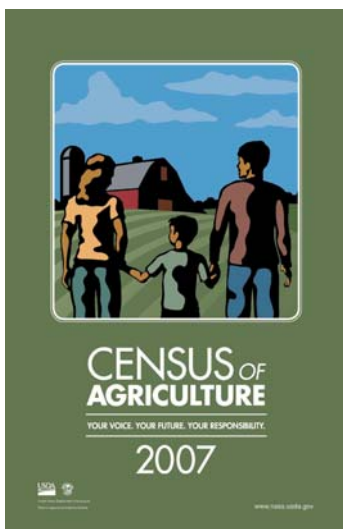
ALL SUNFLOWER planting intentions, of 137,000 acres, are up 5 percent from 2007. **OIL SUNFLOWER** planting intentions, of 100,000 acres, are up 10,000 acres from 2007. **NON-OIL SUNFLOWER** planting intentions, of 37,000, are down 4,000 acres from last year.

MINNESOTA

Crop	2007 Planted	2008 Intentions	2008/2007
	<i>-1,000 Acres-</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Corn	8,400	7,600	90
Soybeans	6,250	7,100	114
All Wheat	1,765	1,970	112
Spring Wheat	1,700	1,900	112
Winter Wheat 1/	65	70	108
Barley	130	120	92
Oats	270	230	85
Sugarbeets	486	432	89
Flaxseed	4	2	50
Dry Beans	150	130	87
All Sunflower	131	137	105
Oil	90	100	111
Non-Oil	41	37	90
Canola	31	22	71
All Hay 2/	1,880	1,900	101

1/ Acres planted in preceding fall.

2/ Harvested acres.



Have you completed your
Census Questionnaire?

MINNESOTA HOG INVENTORY DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM DECEMBER

Minnesota hog producers had an inventory of 7.3 million hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008, up 6 percent from last year, but down 4 percent from the December 1, 2007, figure of 7.6 million. This is a new record high inventory for March 1. Breeding hogs totaled 590 thousand head, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Market hogs and pigs, at 6.71 million head, were up 7 percent from a year ago.

Minnesota's December 2007-February 2008 pig crop totaled 2.62 million head, up 3 percent from a year earlier, but down 3 percent from the September 2007-November 2007 pig crop. This is a new record high pig crop for the December – February quarter. The 285 thousand sows that farrowed averaged 9.20 pigs per litter, down from 9.25 a year ago.

Hog producers in Minnesota intend to farrow 280 thousand sows during the March-May 2008 quarter. If realized, this would be down 3 percent from the same period a year earlier. Producers intend to farrow 280 thousand sows during the June-August 2008 quarter. If realized, this would be down 5 percent from the same period in 2007.

FARROWING INTENTIONS

SOWS TO FARROW				
State	March - May 2008	Percent of Previous Year	June - Aug 2008	Percent of Previous Year
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
AR	43	102	41	89
CO	87	109	87	105
IL	235	102	235	98
IN	150	107	150	103
IA	490	102	490	102
KS	87	99	86	96
MI	49	92	48	87
MN	280	97	280	95
MO	185	95	180	92
NE	185	100	185	95
NC	560	100	560	97
OH	84	101	85	99
OK	190	97	190	97
PA	45	100	45	96
SD	85	116	84	102
TX	54	110	55	96
WI	24	92	23	88
Other States 1/	214	98	213	98
US	3,047	100	3,037	98

1/ Individual State estimates not available for the 33 other States.

MARCH 1, 2008, HOG INVENTORIES and DECEMBER 2007 - FEBRUARY 2008 FARROWINGS

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET HOGS & PIGS						SOWS FARROWED Dec. 2007 - Feb. 2008			
	Number	2008 As percent of 2007	Number	2008 As percent of 2007	Under 60 Pounds	60-119 Pounds	120- 179 Pounds	180+ Pounds	TOTAL		Number	2008 As percent of 2007	Pigs Per Litter	Pig Crop 1/
									Number	2008 As percent of 2007				
	1,000	Pct.	1,000	Pct.	-----1,000-----				1,000	Pct.	1,000	Pct.	Number	1,000
AR	300	109	90	106	160	15	10	25	210	111	43	110	9.60	413
CO	780	95	155	103	320	85	80	140	625	93	83	100	9.00	747
IL	4,300	105	450	102	1,390	920	830	710	3,850	105	235	112	9.20	2,162
IN	3,500	108	320	100	1,140	810	630	600	3,180	109	150	107	8.95	1,343
IA	18,700	111	1,100	101	5,420	4,600	4,130	3,450	17,600	111	500	110	9.15	4,575
KS	1,860	101	160	97	575	370	295	460	1,700	101	85	97	9.10	774
MI	970	98	90	82	320	220	165	175	880	100	52	106	9.45	491
MN	7,300	106	590	98	2,640	1,610	1,360	1,100	6,710	107	285	104	9.20	2,622
MO	3,050	107	380	104	1,240	495	510	425	2,670	107	190	106	9.15	1,739
NE	3,200	103	360	100	1,040	770	600	430	2,840	104	190	106	9.50	1,805
NC	10,000	106	1,020	99	3,570	2,070	1,820	1,520	8,980	107	550	102	9.15	5,033
OH	1,830	107	170	103	635	410	370	245	1,660	107	88	105	9.10	801
OK	2,330	99	360	100	970	300	220	480	1,970	99	180	95	9.30	1,674
PA	1,120	101	100	100	310	295	220	195	1,020	101	43	98	9.50	409
SD	1,430	112	160	114	475	280	260	255	1,270	111	88	131	9.60	845
TX	1,080	111	115	115	330	190	200	245	965	111	52	116	9.00	468
WI	410	93	45	82	150	85	60	70	365	95	26	96	8.95	233
Other Sts 2/	3,749	105	473	100	1,212	766	683	615	3,275	106	211	101	9.29	1,960
US	65,909	107	6,138	100	21,897	14,291	12,443	11,140	59,770	107	3,051	105	9.21	28,094

1/ Number of pigs born December-February on hand March 1, or had been sold. 2/ Other States estimates include 33 remaining States.

ANALYSIS OF GRAIN STOCKS AND PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

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The Grain Stocks and Planting Intentions reports compiled by NASS were released March 31, 2008. A highlight of the report was the cutback in corn acres, as reflected in producer intentions of about 7 million acres. Last year's acreage of 93 million acres has been reduced to 86 million acres. Factors which are related to this shift in acres are the high price of soybeans and other crops, the higher production costs associated with corn production, and the perceived wet spring which may delay fieldwork and planting. Soybean acres increased, according to the Prospective Plantings report, to 74.8 million acres, an 18% increase. Wheat acreage was reported at 63.8 million acres, up about 6%.

The level of Grain Stock is a good gauge of demand, particularly for the feed sector. Corn stocks were reported at 6.86 billion bushels, up 13% from last year. Of this total, 3.78 billion bushels were stored on-farm (up 14%), with 3.08 billion bushels stored in elevators (up 12%). Usage for the December to February period was 3.42 billion bushels, vs. 2.86 billion bushels last year, indicating that \$5 corn is still in demand.

Soybean stocks were 1.43 billion bushels (down 20%), of which 593 million bushels were stored on-farm (down 35%), and 835 million bushels stored at elevators (down 5%). Disappearance of soybeans for the December to February period was listed at 904 million bushels, down 1% (again not a large reduction due to the price level).

Stocks of all wheat were recorded at 710 million bushels, down 17% from last year, with 92 million bushels stored on-farm (down 52%), and 618 million bushels stored in elevators (down 7%). The three-month disappearance (December - February) was 422 million bushels. Durum wheat stocks were down sharply, with a 35% reduction.

So what does this mean for markets? At the time of this writing, corn has rallied by about \$.10 per bushel, with wheat and soybeans down sharply, at \$.50-.70 per bushel. The carryover on corn looks to be reduced to about 750 million bushels, using average yields and factoring in expected changes in demand. This level of stocks is very low for corn - rivaling 1946/47. Look for more price strength as planting approaches.

The soybean outlook, though weaker today, may actually become stronger as the increased acreage with normal yields will not increase the carryout very much. About 300 million bushels of carryover will keep the price in the \$10-13 range. Wheat prices may need to adjust slightly to a lower plateau. Weather in parts of the Plains states is not favoring yields at this time and wheat feeding, particularly hard red spring, may stabilize demand. Look for volatile pricing as weather becomes a factor into the Spring of 2008.

MINNESOTA MARCH 1 WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS SMALLEST ON RECORD

The Minnesota March 1 Grain Stocks Survey estimated **SOYBEANS** stored in all positions at 184 million bushels, down 19 percent from the previous year's record high level. On-farm storage of 115 million bushels accounted for 62 percent of the total.

CORN stocks in all positions totaled 748 million bushels, an increase of approximately 5 million bushels from March 1, 2007. On-farm stocks at 520 million bushels accounted for 70 percent of the total.

ALL WHEAT stocks in all positions totaled 23.5 million bushels, down 36 percent from a year earlier and the lowest March 1 level on record. On-farm stocks, at just 7 million bushels, accounted for 30 percent of the total.

MARCH 1 MINNESOTA & U.S. GRAIN STOCKS

COMMODITY	ON-FARM		OFF-FARM		TOTAL ALL POSITIONS		2008/2007 Percent
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	

-1,000 BUSHEL- MINNESOTA

CORN	530,000	520,000	212,545	227,560	742,545	747,560	101
SOYBEANS	157,000	115,000	70,627	69,264	227,627	184,264	81
ALL WHEAT	18,000	7,000	18,538	16,527	36,538	23,527	64
BARLEY	1,300	1,200	10,641	10,520	11,941	11,720	98
OATS	4,300	4,000	14,007	19,369	18,307	23,369	128

UNITED STATES

CORN	3,330,000	3,780,000	2,738,250	3,078,895	6,068,250	6,858,895	113
SOYBEANS	910,000	593,000	876,887	835,102	1,786,887	1,428,102	80
ALL WHEAT	192,450	91,990	664,278	617,650	856,728	709,640	83
BARLEY	38,310	28,270	78,756	76,540	117,066	104,810	90
OATS	33,900	31,000	37,158	48,038	71,058	79,038	111

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